

and the former Soviet Union. Rapidly expanding populations, changes in climate, and a series of natural and man-made disasters have created serious food shortages. With most people in developing nations still practicing subsistence farming, there is a critical need to introduce and apply sustainable agricultural techniques to village farmers. In Guatemala, volunteers are teaching farmers how to increase their family incomes and produce animal protein for dietary intake through the integration of fish and small animal production.

The fastest growing program for volunteers is economic development especially in Eastern Europe. Volunteers promote local economic development through self-sustaining income and employment producing practices. Working with local community leaders, businesses, and trade associations, volunteers teach business management, commercial banking and related skills assisting local efforts to establish free market economies. In Poland, a volunteer has been instrumental in establishing 46 small businesses with no-interest loans from the local government with only a 6-percent default rate.

The Peace Corps has become a powerful symbol of international humanitarianism. It is a goal which hundreds of people strive toward each year. Not just young college graduates, but people of all ages. In fact, 9 percent of Peace Corps volunteers are over 50 years old.

The Peace Corps remains a popular calling; there is not one State in the country which has not sent a Peace Corps volunteer. In my State of California, over 20,000 people have volunteered to serve around the world.

The Peace Corps has become a powerful symbol of America's commitment to expand hope, create opportunity, and encourage development at the grassroots level in the developing world.

Volunteers embody and represent many of America's most enduring values, such as service, commitment to the poor, and friendship among nations. Returned volunteers, enriched by their experiences overseas, have brought to their communities throughout the United States a deeper understanding of other cultures and traditions.

At a time when funding for foreign assistance programs is under severe constraints, it is notable that the Peace Corps continues to enjoy strong support in the Congress and among the American people. That is a tribute to the thousands of Americans—young and old—who have served over the past 35 years, often under very difficult conditions. And it is a tribute to the visionary but simple idea behind the Peace Corps; that the world will be a more peaceful place if we understand one another better and if we can help those in need improve their own lives and that of their families and communities.

Join me in supporting House Joint Resolution 158, recognizing and honoring the Peace Corps' achievements and contributions and its volunteers over the past 35 years.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking my colleague from California, Mr. FARR, for his work on this resolution, and his consistent efforts in the past to recognize and support the Peace Corps.

Since 1961, when President John F. Kennedy signed an Executive order establishing the Peace Corps, 140,000 men and women have represented America by volunteering in 125 countries around the world. I am proud to say that I am among that number.

For me, the Peace Corps represents the best that this Government has to offer. When we bring together dedicated, energetic people and arm them with tools to work in foreign communities as ambassadors of peace, things happen—people's lives improve—and we all benefit. Today, nearly 7,000 such dedicated individuals are serving as Peace Corps volunteers in 94 different countries. They are improving the environmental, agricultural, and business infrastructures in those nations. They are educating the children, caring for the sick, and teaching the poorest of the poor how to help themselves. But, most importantly, these volunteers are the face of America for people across the globe. They are people-to-people diplomats building a peaceful world from the ground up.

But, it's not easy. I know first-hand the challenges and difficulties that these Peace Corps volunteers face. I also know the tremendous rewards. My Peace Corps experience changed my life. When I graduated from college in 1964, I had dreams of playing pro football, making big money, and driving fast cars. Instead, I ended up teaching English and riding a bicycle through the jungles of Thailand.

During my first night in Thailand, I sat in a restaurant and watched a cat chase a rat across the floor and devour it. I thought, "What am I doing here." But, as I got to know the people in the village, my whole outlook changed. I came home from Thailand with a better understanding of the world, with my priorities in order, and prepared for a life of public service.

No other institution does what the Peace Corps does. It serves the needy of the world in concrete, practical ways. It promotes world peace. And, every year, it brings 3,000 experienced, multicultural, and compassionate volunteers back home to America. During its long and distinguished history, the Peace Corps has enjoyed wide public approval and bipartisan support here in Congress. I certainly hope that that support continues as the 1997 appropriation process goes forward.

Today, as it celebrates its 35th anniversary, the Peace Corps deserves our highest recognition and I commend all of its past and current volunteers for 35 years of success.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, House Joint Resolution 158.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DETERIORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 345), expressing concern about the deterioration of human rights in Cambodia, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 345

Whereas the Paris Peace Accords of 1991 and the successful national elections of 1993

ended two decades of civil war and genocide in Cambodia, demonstrated the commitment of the Cambodian people to democracy and stability, and established a national constitution guaranteeing fundamental human rights;

Whereas since 1991 the international community has contributed more than \$3,000,000,000 to peacekeeping and national reconstruction in Cambodia and currently provides over 40 percent of the budget of the Cambodian Government;

Whereas recent events in Cambodia, including the arrest and exile of former Foreign Minister Prince Sirivudh, the expulsion of the former Finance Minister Sam Rainsy from the government coalition FUNCINPEC Party and the National Assembly, a grenade attack against the independent Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party of Cambodia, and mob attacks against pro-opposition newspapers, suggest that Cambodia is sliding back into a pattern of violence and repression;

Whereas rampant official corruption in the Cambodian Government has emerged as a major cause of public dissatisfaction, which in turn has resulted in the government crackdown against these outspoken opposition politicians and the press;

Whereas heroin traffic in and through Cambodia has become so widespread that Cambodia has been added to the Department of State's list of major narcotics trafficking countries;

Whereas the desire to cite Cambodia as a success story for United Nations peacekeeping and international cooperation has stifled the expression of concern about deteriorating human rights conditions in Cambodia; and

Whereas conditions in Cambodia have deteriorated since the House of Representatives passed House Bill 1642 on July 11, 1995, which grants Cambodia unconditional most favored trading status: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the Secretary of State to make human rights concerns among the primary objectives in bilateral relations with Cambodia;

(2) urges the Secretary of State to closely monitor preparations for upcoming Cambodian elections in 1997 and 1998 and attempt to secure the agreement of the Cambodian Government to full and unhindered participation of international observers for these elections;

(3) urges the Secretary of State to support the continuation of human rights monitoring in Cambodia by the United Nations, including monitoring through the office of the United Nations Center for Human Rights in Phnom Penh and monitoring by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Human Rights in Cambodia;

(4) urges the Secretary of State to encourage Cambodia's other donors and trading partners to raise human rights concerns with Cambodia;

(5) supports efforts by the United States to provide assistance to Cambodia to broaden democratic civil society, to strengthen the rule of law and to ensure that future elections in Cambodia are free and fair; and

(6) urges that the United States raise human rights concerns at the June 1996 meeting of the Donor's Consultative Meeting for Cambodia and during consideration of projects in Cambodia to be financed by international financial institutions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 2 years since Cambodia had its first democratic election that brought to power the current coalition government.

Over the past 4 years, the United States donated some \$700 million to the efforts to help Cambodia rebuild its economy and become a democracy.

But some very serious problems remain.

Last year the Cambodian National Assembly passed a provision to the press law that will allow the Government under the vague rubric of national security and political stability virtually unfettered power to confiscate and close down newspapers and charge journalists with criminal offenses.

The government has requested prosecution and closure of several Cambodian newspapers, as well as the highly regarded English language weekly, the Phnom Penh Post.

In addition to these problems, there are the serious questions surrounding the unsolved killings of three journalists, and the expulsion and threatened expulsion of members of parliament who expressed views critical of the ruling coalition.

One trial ended with the conviction of Thun Bun Ly, the editor of Khmer Ideal on charges of disinformation for critical and satirical essays that the paper published.

The newspaper has been closed and Thun Bun Ly has been fined 10 million riel—\$4,000—and sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment should he fail to pay in 2 months.

The Congress needs to closely watch the situation in Cambodia. The leaders of that nation need to permit the development of an independent judiciary, to allow for complete freedom of the press and independent political participation.

Another important issue is the drug trade. There are many reports coming out of the region pointing out that Cambodia's army and security apparatus is providing transportation and protection for the heroin trade.

I want to thank the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. BEREUTER, and the ranking minority member, for their work on House Resolution 345.

House Resolution 345 expresses important American concerns and I wholeheartedly support its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic minority is going to support this resolution as amended. We do wish it was a little bit more balanced. It is true certainly that the human rights situation in Cambodia has deteriorated over the past year, but the resolution does not adequately recognize the difficulties that Cambodia faces.

Cambodia is not a police state. It is far more open and free than many of its neighbors. Unlike many of its neighbors, it has an active opposition press that does not hesitate to criticize the government and, in many ways, in an inflammatory language that we would be shocked at in this country.

While it is true that government troops have committed human rights violations, it is also true that the Cambodian Government and military have stepped up their efforts to ensure that these abuses are not repeated. The U.S. Government is in fact funding those efforts.

So I would urge my colleagues not to give up on Cambodia, given that country's tragic history over the past quarter century in which we played a significant role. We should not be surprised if it fails to fully live up to our ideals on human rights. Progress is being made.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the committee for yielding me this time and for his support.

Mr. Speaker, this Member introduced House Resolution 345 to put the Cambodian Government on notice that the House is increasingly concerned about the deterioration of democracy and human rights in that country. The resolution at the desk includes two minor technical corrections. The first corrects the date of upcoming elections; the second notes the fact that Cambodia has been added to the State Department's list of narcotics trafficking countries.

Mr. Speaker, Cambodia has made tremendous strides toward democracy since the killing fields of Pol Pot and the Vietnamese occupation; but serious problems remain. House Resolution 345, while commending the Cambodian people for their commitment to democracy and stability, expresses serious concern about human rights problems in that country. This Member is concerned that the desire by the administration and the international community to cite Cambodia as a success story for U.N. peacekeeping has stifled the expression of concern about the deterioration of democracy and human rights conditions in Cambodia.

On September 21, 1995, the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held hearings on internal stability, democracy, and economic development in Cambodia. At this hearing, several well-informed private witnesses, including the International Republican Institute, described a serious deterioration of democracy and human rights in Cambodia during the last 12 months.

Few people have experienced as much suffering the last 30 years as the people of Cambodia. Cambodia was drawn into the Vietnam war. The country endured 3 years of tyrannical rule by the Khmer Rouge [KR], under which more than 1 million Cambodians perished. Cambodia was invaded by Vietnam in 1979 and then suffered another 12 years of civil war.

Cambodia's road back from this horror began with the October 1991 Paris Peace Accords, under the auspices of the United Nations. These accords led to remarkably successful national elections in May 1993, during which 90 percent of Cambodia's eligible voters braved threats from Pol Pot and his henchmen and voted to install a democratic parliamentary system of government. Cambodia's national unity coalition government, which resulted from these elections, demonstrates the desire of the Cambodian people for representative government and stability.

The 1993 elections, however, were only the first step toward democracy in Cambodia. The impediments remain formidable: the Khmer Rouge continues to fight a low intensity war against the Government; the former ruling party—the ex-communist Cambodian People's Party—has found it difficult to share power; the royalist party which won the elections has been charged with corruption; and, the Government seems to be drifting toward authoritarianism.

Not only are there questions about the depth and staying-power of the current democratic system in Cambodia, but the Government of Cambodia has taken some troubling actions. As a parliamentarian, and Member of Congress, I am very troubled by what appears to be an increasing tendency toward intolerance of dissent in the Cambodian National Assembly. The expulsion from the National Assembly of the outspoken Sam Rainsy, the arrest and exile of former Foreign Minister Prince Sirivudh, and the threatened expulsion of other legislators is of particular concern. Moreover, the arrest of some journalists and the enactment of a restrictive press law raise questions about the Cambodian Government's commitment to free speech and a free press.

Mr. Speaker, since the House acted to approve most-favored-nation trading status for Cambodia earlier this year, we certainly now need to balance that action with a straightforward message to Phnom Penh on human rights violations. That is exactly what House Resolution 345, as amended, does.

One positive sign, which could make a long-term contribution to democracy and human rights in Cambodia, is the strong network of local and international nongovernment organizations. This Member commends the Government for its continued welcoming of NGO's in that country and hopes this positive attitude will continue.

The resolution urges the administration to bring a larger effort to making

democracy and human rights concerns among our primary objectives in bilateral relations with Cambodia, calls for close monitoring of important upcoming elections, supports democratization efforts of United States assistance programs, and urges that the United States and other donors raise democracy and human rights at the June 1996 meeting of the Donor's Consultative Meeting for Cambodia.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 345 represents a balanced and constructive effort to advance democracy and human rights in Cambodia. This Member wants to thank the distinguished gentleman from New York and chairman of the House International Relations Committee, [Mr. GILMAN] and the distinguished Member from California and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, [Mr. BERMAN] for their assistance and support for this resolution. This Member urges all his colleagues in this body to support House Resolution 345, as amended.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman of our subcommittee, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] for his supportive comments.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 345, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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ANNIVERSARY OF MASSACRE OF KURDS BY IRAQI GOVERNMENT

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 379) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the eighth anniversary of the massacre of over 5,000 Kurds as a result of a gas bomb attack by the Iraqi Government.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 379

Whereas over four million Kurds live in Iraq, composing 20 percent of the population;

Whereas the Iraqi Government has continually taken violent actions against Kurds living in Iraq;

Whereas, on March 17, 1988, the Iraqi Government, by its own admission, used chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurd civilians in the Kurdish frontier village of Halabja, resulting in the death of over 5,000 innocent persons;

Whereas this terrible, inhumane act by the repressive Iraqi Government provoked international outrage;

Whereas the Iraqi Government continued its use of chemical weapons against a defenseless Kurdish population throughout 1988;

Whereas over 182,000 Iraqi Kurds were killed by the Iraqi Government during the Anfal campaigns in 1988;

Whereas it was not until the international response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 that the international community instituted measures to destroy Iraq's arsenal of weapons of mass destruction;

Whereas the Iraqi Government has laid over 20 million mines throughout the Kurdish countryside which continue to hamper efforts of rehabilitation of the displaced population;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 of April 1, 1991, demanded that Iraq cease repression of its citizens and called for an international relief program for the Iraqi civilian population and, in particular the Kurdish population;

Whereas, since the spring of 1991, the United States, Britain, and France have enforced by daily overflights a no-fly zone over Iraq north of the 36th parallel;

Whereas, in addition to the allied air umbrella, the United Nations carries out relief and security operations in Iraq, with emphasis on the Kurdish region;

Whereas, since 1991, the United States has provided approximately \$1.2 billion to support humanitarian and protective activities, known as Operation Provide Comfort, on behalf of the Iraqi Kurds; and

Whereas there will never truly be peace for the Iraqi Kurds without justice being carried out against their Iraqi perpetrators: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Administration should—

(1) mark the eighth anniversary of the death of over 5,000 Iraqi Kurds in the 1988 chemical attack by the Iraqi Government on Halabja by commemorating all those innocent men, women, and children who lost their lives;

(2) reaffirm the United States' commitment to protect and help the Kurdish people in Iraq, thus ensuring that the tragedy of Halabja will never be repeated;

(3) support efforts to promote a democratic alternative to the present regime in Iraq which will assure the Kurdish people the right to self-government through a federal system; and

(4) renew efforts to establish an international war crime tribunal to prosecute Iraqi leaders involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 379, legislation introduced by our distinguished colleague the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the eighth anniversary on March 17, 1996, of the massacre of 5,000 Iraqi Kurds as a result of a gas bomb attack by the Iraqi Government.

The United States is well aware of the brutal actions of Saddam Hussein's regime against Iraqi minorities, particularly Iraqi Kurds, who are now pro-

tected in northern Iraq by Operation Provide Comfort. United States support for Operation Provide Comfort is substantial, through our participation in monitoring the no-fly zone over Iraq north of the 36th parallel, and through our approximately \$1.2 billion in humanitarian and protective activities there to assist the Kurds in the north, in which we are also able to deter Saddam's aggression.

House Resolution 379 recalls the events of March 17, 1988, and calls upon the administration to: Commemorate the memories of those innocents who lost their lives in that tragic attack; reaffirm the United States commitment to protect and assist the Kurdish minority in Iraq, to ensure that the Halabja massacre does not happen again; support efforts to promote a democratic alternative to the present regime in Iraq which will assure the Kurds the right to self-government through a federal system; and renew efforts to establish an international war crimes tribunal to prosecute Iraqi leaders involved in crimes against humanity.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] is to be commended for his sponsorship of this resolution, and for his consistent leadership in fighting for human rights. Accordingly, I support the gentleman's resolution, and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The minority applauds this resolution introduced by the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and appreciates the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the chairman, bringing it to the floor. It is appropriate that we express our sense of outrage over the massacre of 5,000 Kurds by gas bomb attack. It is a timely reminder that we have to continue our vigilance and pressure against Iraq with and on behalf of the international community.

This resolution reaffirms our commitment to protect and to help the Kurdish people in Iraq. It supports efforts to promote a democratic alternative to the present regime in Iraq which will assure the Kurdish people the right to self-government through a federal system, and it calls on the administration to renew efforts to establish an international war crimes tribunal to prosecute Iraqi leaders involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes and their principal leader, in particular, Saddam Hussein.

So this is a good resolution, and we would urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], distinguished co-chairman of our human rights caucus, who has been a leader in our battle for human rights and has brought this